As regards the number of watchmen recruited subsequently through private agencies the information is being collected.

AD-HOC Allotment of Government Accommodation to Physically Handicapped

2914. SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Government employee who is physically handicapped with minimum 40 per cent permanent disability is considered for *ad-hoc* allotment of residential accommodation;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that a Government servant whose wife or children are physically handicapped with a 40 per cent permanent disability are not considered for *ad-hoc* allotment of accommodation; and

(c) whether Government are considering a proposal to extend the facility to such employee in view of the fact that it becomes difficult for such Government employees to get any accommodation on rent due to their disabled wards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) *Ad-hoc* allotment is considered to certain categories of physically handicapped Government employees such as, the blind, the deaf and the orthopaedically handicapped. In the case of orthopaedically handicapped percentage of disability should not be less than 40%.

(b) The policy of the Government is to consider allotment of accommodation to physically handicapped Government employees and not on the ground of handicap of members of their family.

(c) No. Sir.

Import of Fertilizer

2915. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of glut in fertilisers due to poor consumption Government propose to import fertiliser during the current year and also during the next year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) and (b) Import of fertilisers is planned keeping in view the targetted levels of consumption and production of fertilisers. Based on periodic reviews of demand and supply of fertilisers, the current year's import plan has been cut down by 6.3 lakh tonnes of nutrients and no finished nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilisers are proposed to be imported during the first quarter of the next financial year. The import of these fertilisers during the remaining part of the next year would depend upon the gap between the supply and demand as may emerge on review. Since there are no known indigenous sources of Muriate of Potash, this material would be imported according to the assessed needs of the farmers.

Licence for New Sugar Factories

2916. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 418 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th February, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to reconsider licence

of new sugar factories run by private sector in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The Sectoral priorities to be followed during the Seventh Five Year Plan have been indicated in reply to Unstarred Question 418 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th February, 1987. No Letter of intent/industrial licence has been granted for setting up of new sugar factories in the country to the private sector so far, after the announcement of the new guidelines.

Prices of edible oils

2917. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 43 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the soaring prices of edible oils are due to fall in production of oilseeds in drought prone areas of Saurashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to stabilise the current spiral of prices of edible oils;

(c) whether it is a fact that the imported edible oils have been diverted by private companies to earn more profits and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The reasons for increase in the prices of edible oils are overall shortfall in the production of oilseeds including shortfall in the drought prone areas and the impact of lean period.

(b) The Government have taken the following steps to stabilise the prices of edible oils:—

(i) States have been asked to take stringent measures against hoarder and speculators. Checking of vanaspati units has been intensified.

(ii) All efforts are being made to increase the production of edible oils to achieve self-sufficiency.

(ii) Supply management of imported edible oils to Public Distribution System and vanaspati industry has been geared to check the rising trend in the prices.

(c) and (d) Except for one case, no such instances have been reported to Government. In this case, besides investigation by the Bombay police, the Deputy Chief Controller of Imports and Exports has passed an abeyance order against the firm.

Recommendations for safety of Dams

2918. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations made by the Committee set up by his Ministry to review the safety of the dams;

(b) whether the committee has suggested measures for monitoring the structural defects in the dams from time to time;

(c) whether the committee has recommended setting up safety organisation;